International terminal of Calcutta Airport

1377. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when the new international terminal of Calcutta Airport is going to be completed and would become operational;

(b) what are the reasons for its delay;

(c) the number of interantional flights now operating through Calcutta Airport; and

(d) what attempts are being made by the Government to attract more inter-naional flights through Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The new Terminal Building is likely to be completed by the end of March, 1994 and is expected to be commissioned by June, 1994.

(b) The delay has been mainly due to revision of scope of work, removal and relocation of existing structures and interference of local anti-social elements.

(c) 104 international flights per week are being operated to/through Calcutta.

(d) As a matter of policy, Government have been offering Calcutta as a point of call for foreign airlines on liberal terms during bilateral air services talks with foreign countries.

Shortage of pilots in IA

1378. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding shortage of Pilots in Indian Airlines:

(b) what are the reasons for such a shortage: and

(c) in what manner Government is contemplaing to meet the shortage and by when?

THT MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) For optimum utilisation o' its fleet Indian Airlines is abort of 75 commanders whereas it has got an excess of 46 co-pilots. There is also shortas of senior pilots who can impart trainin to other pilots.

(b) 105 pilots, most of them Commanders, resigned from the service of India Airlines since July, 1992. Owing to deart of senior pilots, there is also slow progres in training.

(c) (i) Director General of Civil Aviation has issued a circular to all private ai taxi operators asking them not to emplo any of the employees of the national car riers without a 'No objection Certificate from the employer.

(ii) Indian Airlines has amended its service regulations by which the notice perioc for resignation has been increased to si) months from one month.

(iii) A trainee pilot has to execute a bond for Rs. 10 lakhs to serve the Corporation for a minimum of 10 years after initial training and on each subsequent endorsement.

(iv) Indian Airlines has started negotiations with the Association of pilots for: change in career progression, increase in Flight and Duty Time Limitation and pcceleration of training programme.

(v) Indian Airlines has also been permitted to engage retired pilots on contract basis.

Stranded passengers at Singapore Alrprot

1379. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of families from India had got stranded at Singapore airport for more : than a week due to non-availability of seats;

(b) if so, whether these families were of Air India employees who were on an excursion trip; and

(c) whether the Civil Aviation autho. rities in Singapore have warned Air India